## WHY IS WELLHEAD PROTECTION IMPORTANT?

The earth's water is used and reused as it cycles through the atmosphere, lakes, streams, soils, and groundwater. The water we drink today may have been used by early settlers or even dinosaurs!

In the past, many low-level pollutants were naturally decomposed and filtered from water sources. Modern industrial technology, however, has introduced hazardous chemicals that can easily contaminate soils and groundwater if misused.

A total of 726 homes and businesses depend on Nashville's groundwater for drinking, washing, manufacturing, and irrigation. Although Nashville's water quality is tested frequently, pollution prevention is a shared responsibility. Once hazardous pollutants reach groundwater, cleanup is usually very difficult and expensive.

Wellhead protection is like an insurance policy for the future. By planning now to prevent contamination, time and money will be saved.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

Groundwater protection starts in the home. Here are a few reminders:

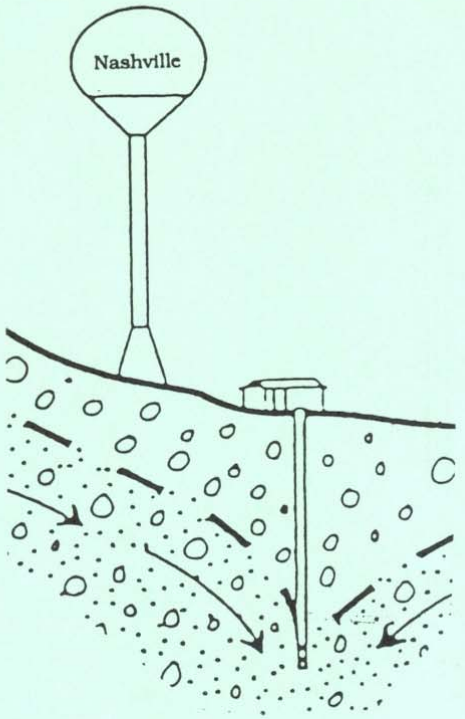
- Never pour leftover hazardous products (such as used oil, gasoline and paint stripper) onto the ground or road, or into any stream, floor drain, septic system, or street sewer.
- Recycle used motor oil, transmission fluid, and antifreeze. Check with the service station where you do business. The Transfer Recycling Station accepts used oil and antifreeze.
- Pay attention to floor drains in automotive work areas. Close off floor drains if they are not properly connected to the wastewater treatment system.
- Report leaks and spills to the Nashville Department of Public Works. Nashville, in turn, will contact the appropriate regulatory agencies.

**GROUNDWATER PROTECTION IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY.**

# VILLAGE OF NASHVILLE

# WELLHEAD PROTECTION PROGRAM

Committed to protecting Nashville's drinking water supply




For further information, contact the Nashville Dept of Public Works: 517/852-9571

## WHAT IS WELLHEAD PROTECTION?

The purpose of wellhead protection is to identify and manage all potential sources of contamination within a designated area surrounding drinking water wells. The wellhead protection area is the land area that contributes infiltration water (and possibly contaminants) to the well.

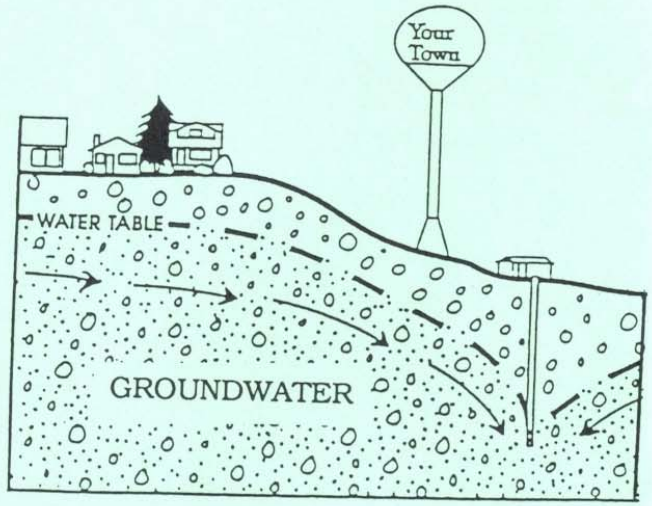
Through its Wellhead Protection Program, Nashville is taking initial steps to identify issues of concern. Village officials are working in cooperation with county and state agency representatives to identify approaches which will reduce possible risks to the water supply system.

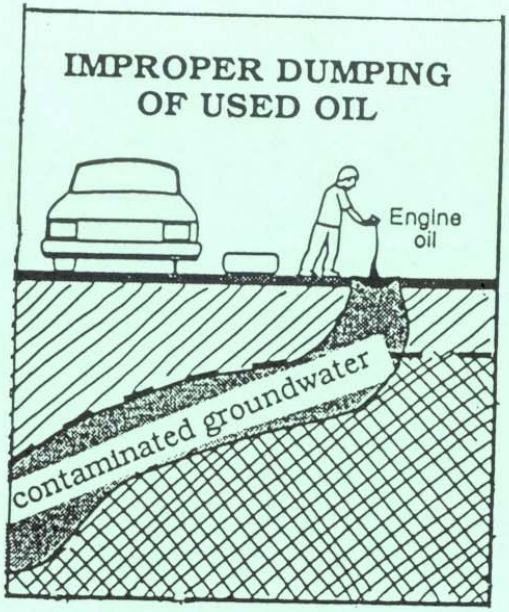
Nashville's Wellhead Protection Program will lead to increased public awareness about the vulnerability of the Village's drinking water supply. The Wellhead Protection Program will also help businesses and citizens understand the importance of minimizing the use of hazardous substances, handling materials carefully, and storing them in locations where leaks and spills cannot reach the ground or groundwater.

## WHAT IS GROUNDWATER?

Groundwater is the water beneath the surface of the earth which saturates the pores and fractures of sand, gravel and rock formations. Nashville's drinking water supply system uses groundwater from three municipally-owned wells (two wells are 51 feet deep and one well is 60 feet deep.) In addition, private drinking water wells are still used in some homes.

Special attention needs to be given to protecting Nashville's groundwater because sandy, porous soils are found throughout the area.




## WHAT CAUSES GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION?

Potential sources of groundwater contamination include: small spills of used oil and gasoline, transportation accidents, industrial chemical spills, storage areas for hazardous chemicals, runoff from farm fields and animal feed lots, leaking underground storage tanks, and others.

Floor drains in service stations, manufacturing shops, warehouses, or even home garages can be a source of groundwater contamination if the drains are not connected to the wastewater treatment system.